

N.E.
A₁
Claim 2 (amended)

A sustained release, polymer-based, water insoluble bead according to claim 1, wherein said polymeric matrix comprises a polysaccharide.

A₁
Claim 3 (amended)

A sustained release, polymer-based, water insoluble bead according to claim 1, wherein said surface active molecule is a protein selected from the group consisting of gelatin, albumin, casein and Lactoglobulin.

A₂
Claim 25 (amended)

A process for preparing a sustained-release, polymer-based, water insoluble bead according to claim 1 for release of a volatile hydrophobic component therefrom in atmospheric air, comprising:

- a) preparing an oil/water emulsion by homogenizing a volatile hydrophobic component in water using the at least one surface active molecule;
- b) mixing said emulsion with at least one water-soluble polymer comprising a polysaccharide and optionally rehomogenizing the mixture; and
- c) adding the emulsion prepared in step (b) in a dropwise manner into a gellant solution to form said water insoluble bead.

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner has set forth a requirement for an election of species. Applicants respectfully submit that this requirement is improper and premature.